end of the stent, wherein at least one of the rows is adapted to accommodate the non-uniform radial force of the portion of the lumen in contact with the adapted row.[.]

wherein each flexible cell is formed of a first member, a second member, a third member and a fourth member, a first C-shaped loop disposed between the first member and the third member, a second C-shaped loop disposed between the second member and the fourth member, a first flexible connector disposed between the first member and the third member, and a second flexible connector disposed between the third member and the fourth member, and

wherein the cells in the at least one of the rows which is adapted to accommodate the non-uniform radial force of the lumen is provided with first and third members that are shorter than the second and fourth members.

Please add new claims 51-57.

51. (new) An expandable stent according to claim 48, wherein the row at the distal end of the stent is adapted to accommodate the non-uniform radial force of the lumen.

52. (new) An expandable stent according to claim 48, wherein the row at the proximal end of the stent is adapted to accommodate the non-uniform radial force of the lumen.

53. (new) An expandable stent according to claim 48, wherein both the row of cells at the proximal end of the stent and the row of cells at the distal end of the stent are adapted to accommodate the non-uniform radial force of the lumen.

54. (new) An expandable stent having a non-uniform radial force, comprising: a plurality of interconnected flexible cells defining a stent having a proximal end and a distal end and a longitudinal axis, the cells arranged in a plurality of interconnected flexible rows disposed along the longitudinal axis of the stent with a distal row disposed at the distal end of the stent and a proximal row

disposed at the proximal end of the stent, wherein at least one of the rows is adapted to provide a different radial force than the other flexible rows,

wherein each flexible cell is formed of a first member, a second member, a third member and a fourth member, a first C-shaped loop disposed between the first member and the third member, a second C-shaped loop disposed between the second member and the fourth member, a first flexible connector disposed between the first member and the third member, and a second flexible connector disposed between the third member and the fourth member, and

wherein the cells in the at least one of the rows which is adapted to provide a different radial force is provided with first and third members that are shorter than the second and fourth members.

B2 cont'd

55. (new) An expandable stent according to claim 54, wherein the row of flexible cells at the distal end of the stent is adapted to provide a different radial force.

56. (new) An expandable stent according to claim 54, wherein the row of flexible cells at the proximal end of the stent is adapted to provide a different radial force.

57. (new) An expandable stent according to claim 54, wherein both the row of cells at the proximal end of the stent and the row of cells at the distal end of the stent are adapted to provide a different radial force.

REMARKS

Claims 48 and 51-59 are pending.

Applicant believes that this Application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If for any reason the Examiner believes that contact with Applicant's attorney would advance the prosecution of this